



## PRESS RELEASE

### DEAN MILLIGAN, CHIEF OF POLICE

### MENTAL HEALTH OFFICERS

January 28, 2019

The Downey Police Department has partnered with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health to proactively engage and work with people experiencing mental health issues.

With these proactive efforts in mind, the Downey Police Department implemented a full-time Mental Health Officer Program for patrol operations.

Two designated Downey Patrol Officers will be teamed up with two full-time Mental Health Clinicians from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. These officers have received specialized training in mental health and will be responsible in handling any mental health related calls for service. The two teams will also be proactive in engaging the homeless population and working closely with the various outreach organizations in Downey and Los Angeles County.

“The implementation of this new program allows our Downey Police Officers to better assist some of our most vulnerable community members, including our homeless population,” said Mayor Rick Rodriguez.

Mayor Pro Tem Blanca Pacheco added, “This is a great collaborative effort between our own Downey Police Department and the County, which not only trains Officers to safely and effectively respond to people with mental illness, but also helps build a positive rapport among these individuals.”